PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE XCVII.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

I
INAUGURATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

"I am inaugurating to-day in Madras the National War Front. This, as the Viceroy has explained, is a nation-wide organisation designed to include all men of goodwill, who are ready, in this time of national peril, to put India first and to unite in a determination to overthrow once and for all the forces of Nazi and Japanese tyranny and aggression, which now menace the very frontiers of India.

"The Front is not intended to conflict with any political party within India. I welcome the support of every patriot, to whatsoever party he may belong, who feels that now is the time to lay aside all internecine quarrels, Indian and British, Hindu and Muslim, Brahmin and non-Brahmin, and rally to overthrow the enemy at our gates.

"I have associated with me to-day eminent representatives of the various communities of this Province, of the Tamil Nad, of Andhradesa, and of the West Coast. These men were never before united in political life, but are united to-day in love of their country and determination to see her through to Victory.

OBJECTS OF FRONT.

"Among the objects of the Front are the strengthening of the war-resistance of the people, the eradication of all elements tending to undermine it, involving the counter-acting of all Fifth Column activities, in talk, writing and rumour-mongering; and the inculcation of faith, courage and endurance so that the country may offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form until the Totalitarian cult is finally overthrown.

"The Front, therefore, demands a positive attitude against the external threat, and against internal defeatism.

"Not only should individual members of the National Front pin down and expose every kind of speech, writing and behaviour that tends to sap the country's power to fight, but they must also in their own every day talk and writing encourage the will to victory among the people, and make it clear to all that the first duty of every true lover of India to-day is to do all in his power to further the defeat of the Totalitarian powers, and to consider every man his friend and ally who thinks the same.

TO MAKE A WHOLE-TIME JOB OF IT.

"The composition of the Front, though officially approved and supported, is very largely non-official. It consists of men who put the self-respect and subsequent position of India in world affairs, before considerations of employment, promotion, or political affiliation, and who propose to make a 'whole-time job of it.'

"They aim at gaining the active adherence of thousands and thousands of men, and women too, who will make themselves responsible for the wide dissemination of correct news and views about the war, so that none of their countrymen need be ignorant of the tremendous issues at stake.

"They will encourage and assist to the utmost all recruiting efforts, whether for military, naval, air or civil defence needs.

"No one need be, or should be, outside the National War Front—serving soldiers, Government employees, traders, professional men, students and labourers in the field or factory.

MAGNIFICENT DESTINY.

"What the Front aims at, and what we offer you to-day is more 'togetherness,' more war-mindedness, a fuller realisation of the magnificent destiny that is in our hands if we can sink faction, co-operate courageously and cheerfully, and strike with all our might at the sworn enemies of all that we and civilisation itself hold dear—the Japanese, the Germans and the Italians.

"That is why I have placed myself at the head of the War Front in this Province, and that is why I say to all my hearers, here and elsewhere, 'Go to it. Victory for India'."

II

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

"Now I have placed myself at the head of this movement, because I feel that the Viceroy, in setting the example of starting a National War Front, is doing something which is very necessary at the present time. None of you here in Madras need be ashamed of the war efforts we have been making during the past two years. We have a very great record down here, of which we can rightly be proud, but none-the-less, the situation is such that now it is the duty of everybody, men, women and even children, to sink their differences and get together in order to save India from any evil that may come to her in the times ahead.

FUTURE OF INDIA.

"We want, in this National Front, to get everybody who believes in this country, in the future of India—not in the future of the British Empire or Great Britain, but in the future of India itself—and all who love this country to join the National Front and do everything they possibly can.

"There is an immense amount of work everybody can do. We cannot all join the Forces, but we can help by advising people to join the Forces. We can help to get over the timidity of some of the elders who do not wish their children to join the Forces, by explaining to them that all young men, who are healthy and who can possibly go, should join the Forces in greater and greater numbers, because the war is by no means over. It may take a long time to be over, and many more thousands of people will be wanted from this province alone, let alone the rest of India.

"Another thing we can do is to make people war-conscious, to make them realise that these are not times of peace, and that there have got to be changes in the life of every individual. We must economise, live more simply, save as much as we can, and put into the War Savings Certificates and the various war loans. We have to forget the nice times of peace and remember only the horrible times of war. We must forget the past in every sense, forget it politically and socially, forget all the things we used to do, and concentrate on the present, keeping our eyes on the future. That is the duty of everyone.

GROW MORE FOOD.

"In the mofussil districts in particular, it is our duty to urge people to grow more food, more food of every sort and kind, because the time might come when we might be short of food. Every new acre that is put under the plough, the better will it be for the people of this province.

"Every person must counteract, by every means, all defeatism, all this cowardly talk of being friendly with the Japanese: and all the ridiculous and unfounded rumours that go from mouth to mouth and get embellished. There is not the slightest doubt that the Japanese, when they left India, left their agents here, who are doing everything in their power to frighten the people of this province, indeed throughout India, into believing that Japan will be victorious in the end. These invidious rumours go about with great rapidity; they have got to be counteracted. Do not listen to the Tokyo radio which tells you packs of lies day after day. The All-India Radio and the B. B. C. tell you the truth, although the truth may be sometimes unpleasant. None the less they tell you the truth and conceal nothing.

"There is one particular form, a most pernicious one, of defeatism—that is the attitude of people, who say that Japan has had such great successes that she is going to win the war. If she wins, she will come here, and those of us who are not associated with the war effort can go to the Japanese and say 'I did not take any part in the war effort. I did nothing against you, Mr. Japanese, and therefore, I am a good boy and you can take me'. That is an attitude which is not very prevalent, but it is prevalent. It is an attitude which to my mind is sheer, rank, unpatriotic cowardice. I hope all people of goodwill will do everything in their power to dissuade such people and make them face whatever may happen in the future, and realise facts as they are, and not believe in some cowardly appeasement, which will have no effect whatever on the Japanese, if they should be successful.

"When I say 'if they should be successful' I am saying something which is in itself ridiculous, because they cannot be successful in the long run. No matter whether it is Japan, Germany or Italy, all the three nations have got the same aggression-mindedness and desire for world domination, to get into another country, conquer it and loot and murder the inhabitants. They will do to you exactly what they have done in the countries they have conquered. Beware of this defeatist talk, of the invincibility of the Japanese. They are not invincible. They have got the first run, may be because of their treachery. They have had successes, may be. We have had severe rebuffs, but the time is not come for the final reckoning. When that final reckoning comes, we will see that the Japanese are defeated in the same way as the Germans and the Italians. We have got to defeat all. If we defeat one, Germany, I fully believe that the rest of her allies will topple down in confusion and defeat.

AXIS WOULD BE DEFEATED.

"How am I so certain that we can defeat the Axis Powers, and hurl them down from the pedestal? Because I have complete confidence in the unity of the United Nations, who are thinking, working, acting and

fighting together, and in each of these countries, all are united. It is for that unity that I want to appeal to you to-day on the inauguration of the National War Front. Get together, everybody here, and think, act and fight together, and do everything you can together towards the one aim—the final defeat of the enemy.

That final defeat must come and will come, because the United Nations are united cent per cent and have immense power behind them. Everyday and week and month that go by, that power is getting greater and greater.

"You have had a glimpse of the local power this afternoon. A few months ago, it would have been unthinkable, and what we have seen is only a tiny bit of what can be seen hereafter. With every week, more and more armour of all sorts and kinds pour into the country for the defence of India for the present, and for the jumping of places for the offensive in the days to come. We cannot be always on the defensive. A time will come when we will get on the offensive again. If we get on the offensive backed by the unity of the people of India, what a wonderful thing it will be, and what an inspiration it will be for the troops, who are going to give a smack to the Japanese as soon as they possibly can!

END OF ALL WAR.

"I do not know when the war is going to end. It is no good my promising the moon. But I do know that we are getting stronger and stronger every day in equipment and personnel as well as in the air, while Germany, we know, must have reached the peak of her production by this time. Although we have had defeats in the past, and although there might be bad things in the future, one thing I would state with absolute confidence—that the United Nations, by their unity, would have contributed to the great and final victory. When that victory comes, whenever it may be, it will be a complete, absolute and total victory, and it will eradicate, once and for all, that terror of Naziism and Fascism and totalitarian aggression. This time we mean to make a final job of it, and I believe we will eradicate warfare from this world for many generations to come."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

23—5—42 to 29—5—42.

China is simultaneously attacked from both west and east in the provinces of YUNNAN and CHEKIANG, some 1,300 miles apart.

In **Yunnan** the thrust is towards TALIFU on the BURMA Road over an extremely difficult country of mountains, gorges and rivers—a terrain well adapted to the Chinese war of attrition. Here, unable to employ large forces or heavy weapons, the Japanese have been continually harassed by the A. V. G. and the Chinese Air Force. Here they are unable to live on the country as in BURMA. The rainy season has set in and malaria will follow.

During the week, the Chinese have occupied KANLANHU on the Caravan Road and attacked TENGCHUNG and LUNGLING. The Japanese are reported to have reached LONKIN, with the Chinese pursuing them in the rear.

In **Chekiang** the drive is towards KINHWAFU, the capital of the province, which, according to the latest reports, the enemy has approached after taking CHUKI, SHENSHIAN, TUNGLU, YIWU and KIENTAH.

He has also landed troops on CHAUNSHI Island at the mouth of the Min River, below FOOCHOW, in the adjoining province of FUKIANG. MAMOI, south of FOOCHOW, has been bombed.

A large number of transports and warships have been concentrated off FORMOSA.

Burma.—Chinese troops attacked NAWNGKIO between MANDALAY and LASHIO, and the British raided MYITKYINA and TIANGZUP in NORTH BURMA. AKYAB was raided seven times in six days; and MAUNG-GYITHAUNG and KYANKPYU near AKYAB were also attacked. R. A. F. bombers shelled troop-carrying steamers and launches operating in the Chindwin, Kalewa and Mayu Rivers.

General Stilwell, who is now in NEW DELHI for a Conference with General Wavell, has stated, 'BURMA can and must be retaken'. Towards that end, he added, the A. V. G. was being transformed into a regular Army Air Pursuit Group, and additional bombers and fighters were arriving from U. S.

India.—At a Press Conference, General Wavell revealed that 'very considerable reinforcements of all arms', including anti-aircraft crews have arrived from BRITAIN, and that at CALCUTTA and in CEYLON the scale of air-defences was higher than anything that SINGAPORE ever had, even at the maximum of its strength'.

Russia.—The KHARKOV battle may now be supposed to have reached its third phase. The first stage was one of successful Russian advance; the second the German counter-stroke in the IZYUM-BARVENKOVA area; and the third, or present stage, one of increasing German pressure on the Russian left wing. Serious fighting in the sub-sector between IZYUM and BARVENKOVA has been reported—the Germans making reckless sacrifices of men and tanks. Though the German claim to have encircled three Russian armies in the area is untrue, there seems reason to believe that the enemy has cut into the flank of the Russian advance at a point, and taken up a position astride some of the communication lines. The Russians also describe the present phase of the battle as 'defensive', attended by consolidation of ground already gained.

Fighting is in progress in other sectors, such as SMOLENSK and OREL, though local in character.

Germany.—All is not well with Hitler and his home front. According to a STOCKHOLM report, Hitler has urgently left BERLIN for his Army Headquarters to confer with his generals, because they have asked him to give up the Supreme Command. The Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary to the Ministry of Communications have been relieved for 'reasons of health', and Heidrich the Chief of the Gestapo in the occupied countries has been wounded. Following on Hitler's Reichstag speech, officials of the ministry of justice in BERLIN, COLOGNE, HANOVER and FRANKFORT have been arrested on charges of 'leniency in administration'. Fourteen inhabitants of MANNHEIM have been condemned to death for 'Communist activities' and for listening to foreign radios.

The German claim to have formed a 'European Front' for a 'crusade' against 'Bolshevism' is now seen to be a sham. The total contribution of troops by all the allies of Hitler is no more than 300,000 men, made up of 200,000 Rumanians, 50,000 Hungarians and 40,000 Italians, fighting from greed of territory, together with 10,000 Slovaks, and 5.000 Spaniands. Recruits from BELGIUM, NORWAY and HOLLAND are numbered in tens, and the Danish recruits are so few that even their number is not known.

Libya.—DERNA, TMIMI, MARTUBA and the Gulf of Sirte were bombed. Patrol activities continued. On Wednesday the enemy initiated an armoured offensive in two columns and was engaged north-east of BIR HAKEIM.

Australia.—Enemy bases at LAE, RABAUL, KOEPANG, DELI, DEBOYNE and AMBOINA were raided.

The R. A. F. raided ST. NAZAIRE and carried out offensive sweeps over northern FRANCE. The lull in the operations is not due to any change of policy but to bad weather. When the weather lifted during last week WARNEMUNDE and MANNHEIM were attacked. During nights when attacks on GERMANY could not be carried out owing to bad weather the bombers were busy laying mines in enemy waters.

Miscellaneous.—1. In a statement issued on Maritime Day (May 22) President Roosevelt said, 'The U. S. will carry out the greatest ship-building programme in history. No other nation has attempted so vast a maritime enterprise. We will perform this war miracle of ship-production. The nation's ship-building capacity has increased by over 500 per cent.'

2. There are indications to show that American planes will soon attack German factories and communications along with the R. A. F. and thus create a 'second front of the air.' The American squadrons will fly under their own Command, subject to general British supervision.

3. French consular offices and agencies in CANADA have been closed on grounds of suspicion, but this does not mean a breach of diplomatic relations.

4. **The American Technical Mission** in INDIA which has been investigating Indian war production in the last 5 weeks has made 35 recommendations, of which one is the establishment of a Government organisation for the conversion of peace time production to war time production. The Mission has requested WASHINGTON by cable for a supply of tools. A number of technicians and production executives will soon arrive.

5. The Turkish steamer *Chefak* was torpedoed by an unidentified submarine in Bulgarian waters in the Black Sea, as she was returning from BURGAS to ISTANBUL. This is the second attack of the kind within 5 days.

6. The Mexican Tanker *Fago de Oro* was torpedoed on Wednesday. MEXICO has declared war on the Axis powers.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
18—5—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH Channel and Northern FRANCE.			
NIGHT:—			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy camps and motor transport in CYRENAICA. **The harbour** at BENGHAZI.		1 plane.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		17 planes.	43 planes.
FAR EAST (By American and British planes).			
No information available.			
19—5—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:— Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE. **EVENING:—** Railway communications near ST. OMER.		4 planes.	3 planes. 1 plane.
NIGHT:—			
Industrial objectives including big factories at MANNHEIM. **The submarine base** at ST. NAZAIRE. **Enemy aerodromes** in FRANCE and HOLLAND.		14 planes.	
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Objectives in CYRENAICA.			

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bomardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
CRETE. (By British planes).			
Military objectives in CRETE.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By British planes).			
A strongly escorted enemy convoy in the MEDITERRANEAN.	A medium sized vessel hit and a destroyer also hit.		
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Eastern front.		12 planes.	27 planes.
FAR EAST—TIMOR (Portugese). (By American and British planes).			
The harbour at DELI.			
FAR EAST—TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at KOEPANG.	Big fires started; 2 planes shot down.		
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and port at AKYAB.		No loss.	3 planes.
20—5—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.	No loss.		
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
The air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole battle front.		23 planes.	65 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at LAE.		No loss.	6 planes. 2 more damaged.
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy transports on the CHINDWIN River.			
SAMPANS (near AKYAB).			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
21—5—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.		6 planes.	
NIGHT:—			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy camps in the TMIMI area.			
The landing ground at MARTUBA.			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.		19 planes.	37 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at AKYAB.			
22—5—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
The enemy submarine base at ST. NAZAIRE.			
Laying mines in Enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Ths enemy aerodromes at DERNA and MARTUBA.			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire front.			
FAR EAST—AMBOINA (By American and British planes).			
Shipping in the harbour at AMBOINA.			
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and aircraft ou the ground at LAE.		No loss.	8 planes shot down; 2 more damaged.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome, and the port and shipping at RABAUL.	6 enemy bombers and one ship damaged.		
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at AKYAB.			
MAUNG-GYI-THAUNG near (AKYAB).			
23—5—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY—			
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.		2 planes.	1 plane.
NIGHT:—			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The landing ground at DERNA.			
Duel over TMIMI region.			1 plane.
The aerodrome at MARTUBA.			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By British planes).			
An enemy vessel in the Gulf of SIRTE.	Hit.		
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire front.		11 planes.	24 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at RABAUL.	Many planes damaged.	1 plane.	
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and buildings at AKYAB.			
Barracks and buildings at KYAUKPYU.			
Enemy water-borne traffic on the CHINDWIN River.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
24—5—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
EVENING :—			
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.			
NIGHT :—			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The aerodrome and aircraft on the ground at MARTUBA.			
Reconnaissance over CYRENAICA.			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
Aerodromes at DERNA and TMIMI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire battle area.		7 planes.	10 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy barges on the CHINDWIN River.			
25—5—42 (Monday).			
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Troop-carrying steamers and launches on the CHINDWIN River.		No loss.	
Barges and a large steamer in the KALEWA area.		No loss.	
River craft on the MAYU River.		No loss.	

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
19—5—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
A place on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.	No damage or casualties.		
NIGHT :—			
A place in North-east ENGLAND and **another place** in East ENGLAND.	Very slight damage.		
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		2 planes.	
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
No information available.			
20—5—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
Shipping off the South-east coast of ENGLAND.	No damage to any ship.	2 planes.	
NIGHT :—			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		1 plane.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
The aerodrome near Port MORESBY.		4 planes.	
21—5—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No enemy air activity.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—CHINA. (By Jap planes).			
Two towns in CHEKIANG Province.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
22—5—42. (Friday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			4 planes.	
	FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
No information available.				
23—5—42 (Saturday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—				
West and South of ENGLAND.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.				
	FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
No information available.				
24—5—42 (Sunday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—				
Coastal districts in Southern ENGLAND.		Slight damage and a few casualties.	1 plane.	
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			1 plane.	
	FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Reconnaissance over Port MORESBY area.				
25—5—42 (Monday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.				
	FAR·EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.				
	BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
Several towns in Western YUNNAN.				

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA. Roughly speaking, the battle line consists at present of a series of *points* like SMOLENSK, VYASMA, BRIANSK, OREL and KHARKOV—all railway junctions held by the Germans, and of another series of Russian *bulges* enveloping these points. During winter, while the Germans clung to their points for all they were worth, the Russians tried to isolate and cut them off. Both sides were partially successful ; the Germans still hold KHARKOV, BRIANSK, SMOLENSK and the ring round LENINGRAD, while the Russians have retaken KALININ.

MOJAISK, KALUGA and LOZOVAYA. The result is a line of overlapping bulges and salients, threatening both sides as well as offering advantages to both combatants.

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KHARKOV. The Russian advance on KHARKOV has proved to be more than a local enterprise. It has developed into a large scale operation, resulting in an advance of 13 to 37 miles on a 50 mile front, with the liberation of 300 towns and villages over an area of a thousand square miles, the destruction of 400 German tanks and the capture of a large number of prisoners.

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THE LOZOVAYA BULGE. *South* of KHARKOV is a big Russian bulge at LOZOVAYA, which during winter was extended as far as DNEPROPETROVSK. It now constitutes a definite threat to the German position in the CRIMEA. This bulge in its turn is assailed by the Germans at KHARKOV, who are threatened in their turn by another Russian bulge to the *north* of KHARKOV. The German plan was to make a simultaneous offensive from KIRCH and KHARKOV to flatten out the Russian southern salient at LOZOVAYA, but Timoshenko anticipated it by a blow of his own in the direction of KHARKOV. So long as he holds his present position, the Germans will not only be unable to use KHARKOV as a spring-board, but they cannot advance much further in the CRIMEA or the AZOV.

Hitler has also other preoccupations in RUSSIA. LENINGRAD still defies him, and his Baltic position is constantly threatened by the Russian Northern Army and the Russian Baltic Fleet. MURMANSK is another point at which he has to concentrate large forces, in a vain attempt to stop the ever-increasing flow of British and American supplies. To his dismay, with the advent of summer, ARCHANGEL will also be open to the Allies for the landing of supplies.

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THE WAR IN CHINA. The aim of the present Japanese attack on CHINA is not quite clear. The Semi-official CHUNGKING *National Herald* writing on May 23 considers the Japanese threat to be very real—not a mere border campaign. The *Sin Min Pao* thinks that the Japanese objectives are three-fold—to crush CHINA, to cover the rear in order to invade RUSSIA in ASIA, and to prevent the use of Chinese bases by the Allies. There seems to be some good reason for the Japanese fear about the Allied occupation of Chinese bases. Brigadier-General Clare Chennault, Commander of the American Volunteer Group, has announced that if AMERICA could send 2,000 planes—and there is no reason, judging by the

present of production, why it should not—he could wipe out the Japanese air fleet. He also added that there was every possibility of an American air-offensive on JAPAN in a few months, and that it would be impossibe for JAPAN to capture all the Chinese air-fields, in CHEKIANG province and elsewhere, within striking range of JAPAN.

Williams Simms the newspaper correspondent has further revealed that CHINA will continue to get her supplies in spite of the closure of the Burma Road, some by Canal *Via* URGA SAMARKANT, and TASHKANT and some on the backs of donkeys, elephants and porters. The Chinese are also making their own guns and bayonets.

The Japanese attacks on CHINA are taking place in two widely separated theatres—one along the Burma Road in the west, and the other in the coastal province of CHEKIANG in the east. The thrust on the BURMA Road is supplemented by a simultaneous offensive from KENGU and KENTUNG on the INDO-CHINA and SIAM border. The BURMA Road in its approaches to CHUNKING traverses by the vast gorges of the Salween and the Mekong, and the mountain ranges of the YUNNAN.

In the CHEKIANG Province the drive has proceeded from NANCHANG towards KINKWAFU the capital, while large forces are also being landed at FOO-CHOW on the Min. But the fighting in this area does not look like a pincer movement, carried out in conjunction with the western offensive on the BURMA Road so as to converge on CHUNKING, because any advance from CHEKIANG to CHUNKING must be through the gorges of the Yangtse which are impassable to mechanised troops.

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AXIS LYING PROPAGANDA. Under the staggering blows dealt by the R. A. F. on one front and by Marshal Timoshenko on the other, German wits are evidently reeling and Dr. Goebbels is resorting to stupid lying.

The radio announcements made from day to day about KERCH are interesting reading :—May 13—Russian forces annihilated ; Prisoners 40,000 : May 14—Russians are being relentlessly pursued ; May 15—The Germans are at the gates of KERCH ; May 16—The town has been penetrated ; May 17—Fighting is proceeding on the eastern promontory ; May 18—Annihilation of the Russians is imminent ; May 19—Annihilation is almost complete; May 20—Annihilation has been completed with 149,000 prisoners ; May 20—Night—Fighting is still in progress.

The worst part of the lie is however in the number of prisoners said to have been taken—which somehow increases from 40,000 announced on May 13 to 149,000 on May 20 ; but it is all a manifest lie. On a modest estimate, some 100,000 men must have been simultaneously killed or have escaped for

149,000 prisoners to have been possibly captured. This would bring the total of Russians in the KERCH battlefield to a quarter of a million. But such a number is clearly impossible for the narrow area, 20 miles wide and 50 miles deep over which the fight had been proceeding. But this is not the only lie of the week.

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AMERICAN SHIPPING. The Axis is furiously trying to convince its listeners of acute shortage of American shipping, while official figures in WASHINGTON show that for 92 merchant ships lost in the first five months after AMERICA entered the war, she built in the same period 120 new ships. Thus AMERICA has not only replaced her losses but increased her shipping strength at the rate of six a month. Moreover American production is continually increasing, not having attained its peak yet, while American losses are bound to decrease in the future with the arming of merchantmen which is proceeding apace.

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COL. JOHNSON'S RETURN TO AMERICA, has been made the subject of a lying propaganda—this time by the BANGKOK Radio. It tries to make out that Col. Johnson's return is the measure of President Roosevelt's failure to secure Indian co-operation. But the Axis conveniently forgets what Col. Johnson said when he left INDIA. He announced, 'I look forward to my return to INDIA in the very near future to continue our efforts in our common cause against the enemy.'

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AUSTRALIA IN PANIC. Axis propagandists are also anxious to prove that AUSTRALIA is not only disgruntled but is in a state of panic. To this Dr. Watt has given a fitting reply. He has stated that the morale in AUSTRALIA to-day is similar to what LONDON exhibited when the *Luftwaffe* was smashed in its skies.

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THE HOME FRONTS. The news of the week furnishes interesting comparison of the home-fronts of the fighting powers :—

Britain. On May 21, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister for Labour disclosed that 22,000,000 peoples between the ages of 14 and 65 were now employed in BRITAIN in the armed forces, civil defence and industries. No country in the history of the world had mobilised to such a degree. The figure does not take into account part-time workers, married women with domestic duties, who were working part-time, students over 14 and the Women's Volunteer Service who rendered unpaid services. Mr. Charles Palmer, Ex-Defence and Housing Co-ordinator,

U. S. A. who has just returned to WASHINGTON after spending some time in ENGLAND on a mission states: 'BRITAIN is waging a war with all her terrific might, with every factory, business and home, with every pound, shilling and penny, with every man, woman and child. We can do no less, nothing less will win. Any one who intimates that BRITAIN is slowing up does not know ENGLAND.'

Germany. Contrast this with Goering's lament on May 20, when he recounted the hardships in GERMANY: 'The winter campaign had proved terrible. The elements have not been kind. Last year's harvest was bad. Now we need rain.'

Italy. ITALY fares no better. Owing to the shortage of supplies, the maintenance of the war sentiment among the people has become a problem. By more than a coincidence three decrees have been simultaneously promulgated—ordering further cuts in food rations, arming the Fascist party with new special powers of intimidation, and imposing new penalties for listening to enemy and even neutral broadcasts. With the extension of the war to other continents ITALY has lost its importance. ITALY's participation in the war led to its bloodless occupation by GERMANY; and GERMANY's own defeat was now obviously on the cards. Even if GERMANY won, an Axis victory would not be an Italian victory. Thinking persons in ITALY are overheard to say: 'If ENGLAND wins we are losers; if GERMANY wins we are lost.'

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FRANCO-ITALIAN RELATIONS have never been cordial ever since Napoleon III, posing as a friend of ITALY, annexed SAVOY and NICE to FRANCE in the 1860'S.—Twenty years later in 1881, Bismarck, to please FRANCE, helped the French to annex TUNIS in North AFRICA at the expense of ITALY. It is true that Laval tried to placate Mussolini during his Abyssinian Campaign, by sabotaging the sanctions imposed by the League against ITALY, though in the end, as a matter of fact, he did not carry out his promise of further aid to ITALY. Mussolini has always felt that he had been double-crossed by Laval.

Now that Laval has come back to power Mussolini's distrust of the man has increased. He fears that Laval has become the greater favourite of Hitler, and will prevent the cession of CORSICA and SAVOY to ITALY. ITALY has proved a drag upon the Axis partnership, and Mussolini is afraid that Hitler might decide on an alliance with FRANCE at the expense of ITALY.

A dictator is like a dancer on a tight-rope; unless he moves and advances he must fall. To retain his position Mussolini must now show the Italians who have lost their empire that something in return is in prospect, at least CORSICA, and TUNIS, if nothing else. This is supposed to be the motive behind the recent Hitler-Mussolini conference. According to the latest reports, King Victor Emmanuel has reviewed his Croat-Alpine troops in PIEDMONT on the French border, and Mussolini has sent a stiff note to Vichy reiterating his territorial claims to CORSICA and TUNIS.

It would seem that Hitler is making a clever use of the situation. While not too anxious to hand over either CORSICA or TUNIS to ITALY, he is using the prospect of doing so, as a threat to Laval for further French concessions to himself, and the one obstacle in the way of the willing tool is the unwilling people, and for the matter of that, Pétain also, who is said to have refused to agree to further surrender to the Germans.

Laval has therefore to play a careful game, and think twice before he launches or 'Collaboration' with his German masters. Clearly his first attempt must be to 'stranglehold' the country. If he succeeded the last facade of independence would be gone, and Vichy would become in all nakedness a German dependency.

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INDIA AND GUERILLA WARFARE. In a recent broadcast from Delhi, Mr. Philip Jordan of the *London News Chronicle*, states that INDIA would be an ideal country for guerilla warfare if it came to that, and that Indians would have a fine opportunity of striking a blow for freedom if they learnt this mode of warfare. The Japanese are peculiarly vulnerable to guerilla tactics, because while they liked to infiltrate in small bodies they could be effectively stopped by guerillas who knew every forest track, tree and stream. He adds :—

"The organisation of guerilla bands is something that you must teach yourselves, for it is not a function within the scope of the ordinary military mind. The guerilla is the man who makes this a people's war, rather than a soldiers' war: and it is for Indians, acting among themselves and for themselves, to build up this side of their country's defence.

"If the spirit is there, there is no reason on earth why a formidable guerilla army of Indians, trained by Indians, led by Indians should not grow up overnight. capable of aiding, far beyond what they might expect perhaps, those charged with the professional defence of the country.

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SUPPLY OF ARMS. "It is true that the question of the supply of arms is all-important, but in the early days of learning the job, arms are not essential; what are essential are knowledge

and the spirit to resist and damage that come through the building up of co-operative determination to resist. Everybody knows that a handful of twigs lying on the ground has no strength, but bind them together and the strongest man cannot break them.

"Besides, rifles and Tommy guns are not essential for resistance. I know of cases in the Soviet Union where havoc was spread by the use of knives and of farm implements, turned to good account.

"In this war it is for us, the people, to aid those whom we pay to defend us. They have their job to do; and they can only do it in their own way. It is not their function to fight as guerillas, nor are they, trained to do so. The guerilla is the second arm of the land and air fighting forces; it is not the decisive weapon, but the instrument that may sometimes turn an engagement into a decisive battle.

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MAN'S OWN HOME. "There is nothing to stop any one in this country from trying to defend his own patch of ground. When and if any enemy ever reaches and passes across that patch of ground, he—and I don't care who he is or how he feels about the independence of his country—will wish to regain that ground and live in peace again. I have no such low view of human nature as some men have, as to suppose that any man will view with equanimity the conquest of his own patch of home. Think then how much more easily men in a common struggle, with some knowledge of the tactics of the guerilla, will be able to help get rid quickly of the enemy if they combine together for their common good, and combine also to help the army that exists now only for their protection.

"And the way to do that is to imitate the Russians. After all they are winning this war, hands down."

LAVAL

THE TRAITOR OF FRANCE.

(*B. B. C. Talk*).

LAVAL—THE QUISLING.

The most important political event in Europe during the last week has been the reappearance of Laval in the French Government. Marshal Pétain, as you know, is still Chief of State, but Pierre Laval has become head of the Government, and has himself taken four of the principal offices in his Cabinet. Admiral Darlan who remains in charge of the armed forces is responsible only

to Marshal Pétain; but what about Laval himself. What lies behind the sudden elevation to Power of the man whom both Pétain and Darlan are known to detest.

A SADDLE WITHOUT A HORSE.

The developments of the past week in France are of such vital importance to the world at large, and not just to France alone, that they do deserve a more than usual degree of attention and examination. With Pétain thrust into the background, now no more than a puppet, and Darlan divested of political power, Laval finds himself firmly in the saddle. But don't mistake my meaning though. When I say he is firmly in the saddle I am not forgetting, and I don't imagine that you have forgotten, that a saddle is not much use without a horse. At the moment the horse's head is being held by a German groom, but it is a restive beast, as both Laval and the Germans have already found to their cost. I shall have something more to say later in this talk about Laval's prospects.

THE PÉTAIN-DARLAN RÉGIME.

But for the moment I would like to devote a few words to the events leading up to Laval's assumption of power. There can be no doubt that Hitler has been sullenly dissatisfied for some time past with the Pétain—Darlan régime—not that we on our side have found it satisfactory by any means, far from it, but it is certain that Vichy was walking the tight-rope with rather too much skill for German pleasure or profit, and with the most critical weeks of the war close at hand Hitler decided that the time had come for a show-down if his western flank was to be safeguarded. From then on, of course, the result was never in doubt. Nobody who had studied the behaviour of Vichy, and the past record of its members, expected anything but surrender from the men, who, at Bordeaux in June 1940, threw away the chance of continued resistance by the French Fleet and the then vast French Empire. But the full extent of Pétain's surrender can only be appreciated in the knowledge that the old Marshal loathed and despised Laval, knowing him indeed for the crook that he is. Most listeners will certainly have noticed that in his pitiful address to the French Nation a few days ago Pétain made no reference whatever to the reasons why he had handed over the reins to the man he had kicked out so ignominiously in December 1940.

GERMAN BLACKMAIL.

The real reason was of course German blackmail, but Pétain had not the courage to say so. Instead he urged the French people to support Laval and in so doing Pétain appealed to their patience, wisdom and courage. All I can say is that I hope and believe that the majority of the French people will show patience, wisdom and courage, for it is precisely these qualities that will spell Laval's death warrant and the frustration of German hopes.

DARLAN.

As things stand at the moment Darlan calls for only a few words. Having failed to deliver the goods ordered by his German masters he is paying the penalty. It is true that he has been given command of the Armed Forces and it would be unwise to discount him utterly. For one thing he hates Laval, none the less sincerely since the dirty little man from Yewille has beaten him to the draw. For another, Darlan is an ambitious creature, and having tasted power he won't be happy until he has had some more. Just now, though, Laval holds most of the cards, and Darlan knows it.

THE FRENCH COLONIES.

Incidently there is one passage in Darlan's order of the day issued to the Forces which is worth remembering. It was his mention of the defence of the French Empire. This might mean of course simply that they intend to hold what is left, but it might equally hint at a plan to attack those colonies and protectorates that have gone over to the allies. This too is a subject which I will return to later.

LAVAL'S CHARGE AGAINST BRITAIN.

And now for Laval himself, there is hardly a word of his broadcast that doesn't lie wide open to damning refutation or criticism. In fact I could easily have spent this entire broadcast in answering his vicious attack on Great Britain. He accuses us of having left France in the lurch in her hour of need and of attacking her, now that she is defenceless. Well, we ourselves are ready to admit many an error of policy and judgment. Heaven knows we have paid, and are paying, dearly enough in consequence, but to say that we forced France into the war and then let her down is an arrant lie. France came into the war by the decision of her own free democratic Government, and when she came in she knew exactly what Great Britain had to offer in the way of immediate military support. It is indeed a matter of historic fact that we sent more men and materials than we had ever promised. Further more, decisive evidence of our loyal behaviour to the very end comes from no less a person than M. Paul Reynaud now lying in a French prison. In a most courageous and illumating statement smuggled out of prison, he pays tribute to the fact that we did everything within the limits of our available resources to help France in her hour of desperate need.

LAVAL'S POLICY.

Still, the recriminations of Laval matter less than his inhibitions, and those are clear enough from his own words though he was naturally careful not to disclose the details of his plan. By fair means or foul, foul for preference of course, he intends to commit his country to full and unlimited support of the Axis. It's a tough job, and he knows it. Though I doubt

whether even he knows how tough it is likely to be. But that he feels that he is up against a stiff task is apparent from his desperate appeal to the two strongest emotions of a conquered people—hope and fear. He appealed to hope by drawing a picture of Hitler as a magnanimous conquerer, who needed only faith and understanding from France to assure her a splendid place in the new order, and as he spoke innocent French hostages were falling in tens—in twenties, before the rifles of German firing squads. Women and children were just growing weaker from another day of under-feeding in a land of plenty given over to pillage.

TROTTING OUT BOLSHEVISM.

Then to curdle the blood of his listeners he trotted out the bogey by trying to scare them with what might happen if Russia and the Allies were victorious. What an argument. "Submit to German domination", says Laval, "because if you don't you might have Bolshevism." Well any Frenchman worthy of the name will reply "Thanks, but I prefer to get rid of a real and present evil and take my chance with an imaginary one." Laval has openly committed himself to full collaboration with Hitler.

LAVAL WILL NOT SUCCEED.

The one burning question is, will he get away with it; I'll answer that one straight away even at the risk of being refuted by events themselves. The answer is "No, he won't get away with it." I am far from underestimating the strong cards in Laval's hands. To begin with he has seized all the key positions. In addition to being head of the Government, he is Minister of Foreign Affairs. This means that he controls French relations with Germany, the United States and Great Britain. He is Minister of the Interior, which means that he controls the administration and policing of the entire country. He is Minister of Information, which means that he can and will manufacture for public consumption any lie that suits his purpose. Furthermore, he has built up a set of lesser gangsters as Cabinet Ministers, and they certainly can be counted upon to share his taste for underhand work. In passing, let me say that I derive a grim pleasure from the appointment of Dr. Grasset as Minister of Health. Grasset is Laval's old doctor, and as he must by now be used to digging bullets out of Laval's carcase, the appointment shows Laval to be a very far-seeing man indeed. Well, now that Laval is in, the first thing that we must expect is waves of brutal and ruthless repression, with which every Frenchman brave and patriotic enough to show opposition will be liquidated if Laval can lay hands on him. But only when Laval feels powerful enough will he be able to apply the second part of his programme, which is all out aid for Germany, and that is where the French people themselves come in. There are of course some Frenchmen who are prepared to play the German game from sheer selfishness. Others will do so

from weakness of character, or from a shortsighted belief that the best way to face defeat is to accept it. And Laval will undoubtedly do his best to get France involved by indirect means, such as convoying ships or an attack on Vichy's lost colonies. He'll try to strengthen his hand too by posing as the man who got concessions from Hitler. But the point is that the majority of the French people know what sort of a man Laval is, and exactly what he is after. Forewarned is forearmed. Remember that brave Frenchmen came out into the streets and helped our Commandoes in the raid on St. Nazaire. Remember that dozens of brave Frenchmen are dying daily because they or their countrymen go on making life a hell for the Nazis in France. And I know that there are millions more like them. That is what Laval fears, and that is why I believe that he will fail.

"FRANKLY, WE DOUBTED OUR OWN COURAGE".

"BUT LONDONERS SOON CAME TO REGARD AIR RAIDS AS TIRESOME NUISANCES".

POWER TO DEFEAT RAIDERS RESTS WITH THE COMMON, ORDINARY PEOPLE.

(By. Mr. A. Llewellyn Smith, A. R. I. B. A., A. R. P. S., in a broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio at 7.30 p. m. on Monday, April 27.

Mr. Llewellyn Smith, who was a Staff Inspector in the P. A. D. Department, Ministry of Supply, is now Officer on Special Duty, Factory A. R. P., Labour Department, Government of India).

My home is in a very poor part of London. There I lived from the outbreak of war until I left for India three months ago. Naturally, I am quite familiar with air raids, the prospect of which now arouses such tense speculation in some parts of India.

In London, for three months we had a raid every night, and it lasted all night. Thereafter, for six months we had frequent vicious attacks. And I myself missed very few of them. **We soon came to regard air raids chiefly as tiresome nuisances. Londoners, after a bit, simply ceased to be interested in them.**

They were, of course, greatly cheered and heartened by the generous messages of sympathy and admiration which they received from all over the world—and not least from India—but they were also a little bit puzzled. Air raids, they found, were not so bad as all that, and they were chiefly concerned to get back to their work as quickly as possible. This attitude, however came with experience. It wasn't like that at the beginning.

"THE MOST DISTURBING RAID OF ALL......".

In some ways, the most disturbing air raid of all was the raid which never happened, when the sirens blew on that beautiful calm morning of the 3rd of September, 1939, and everybody's stomach turned over rather rapidly. Frankly, we doubted our own courage ; and we weren't quite sure that our Government had made the best possible preparations. But when, a year later, bombs actually began to fall, we soon found that there was no reason for these doubts.

Londoners learnt to their own surprise that, in spite of their fear and the horrors round them, they still were able to behave like ordinary sensible people. **They just found that they were *not* overcome by panic ; they didn't run away. This unexpected discovery came as an immense relief to them. It made soldiers of them and gave them almost a feeling of exaltation.** They no longer bothered about the Government's preparations, though these turned out to be excellent.

THE COMMON, ORDINARY PEOPLE.

They just knew that the power to defeat the raider rested with the common, ordinary people such as you and me.

Of course one never loses one's fear in an air raid. Waiting for things to happen is always horrid. But you find that when they do happen, you are so excited that you can master your fear.

I should like to tell you about an old friend of mine in East London—an elderly woman, very poor, for whom I have a tremendous respect. Late one evening, when the guns were going hard and German aircraft were about their beastly work, I braved the streets in an attempt to visit her and see if she was all right. And there in her little kitchen, about eleven feet square, I found them—Mrs. Dealey, Mr. Dealey, young Alfie Dealey, and the dogs and the cats, and Mrs. Jones from across the way, sitting by a nice fire, drinking tea and playing cards—all as merry as can be. **They were not heroes, these people, and they were not really exceptional. They simply were not going to let themselves be rattled by the presence of the dark enemy overhead.**

MOST TRYING STAGE OF ALL.

People in some parts of India are now going through the first stage which I have described, the stage of waiting, wondering and secretly doubting. I myself think it is the most trying stage of all. But when air raids actually take place they really are not so terrible, provided that the ordinary man does what he is told and behaves like an ordinary sensible being. And I trust and expect that we shall find that he will do so in India, just as in China or England.

You can at least find strength in the knowledge that the Government's preparations are as good as it is possible to make them, and that the Government will tell you the absolute truth about what happens. **So, if I may give a little advice, don't worry, do what you are told and don't spread or believe rumours.** May I also say: thanks for the warm-hearted sympathy which India extended to us in England in our hour of trial. Should India be faced with similar trials, you may be sure that English thoughts and prayers will be with you.

HOW CAN EUROPE BE INVADED? ATTACK THIS YEAR OR LATER?

by

The Sunday Times Aeronautical Correspondent.

Should major strategy be turned towards an invasion of Europe, the first essential for the protection of the necessary shipping is to gain air superiority for the invading force. That in its turn means an air umbrella provided by the Fighter Command, which implies the use of the short-range single-seat fighter. The single-seat fighter is limited in range, and cannot hope to fight successfully more than about 80 miles from its bases. That again narrows down the area against which invasion is likely to succeed.

Thus from the air aspect we find the following general possibilities.

Invasion of Northern France—Air cover and possible replacements easy, coastal shipping usable.

Invasion of Norway—Air cover difficult, replacements difficult, coastal shipping less adequate.

Invasion of Italy—Air cover difficult, replacements very difficult, big ships necessary.

Wherever the main invasion took place, the function of air power would be to turn all its strength to the support of land and sea forces, and abandon temporarily all other forms of offensive. Thus the duty of heavy bombers would be to isolate battle areas as much as possible by the bombing of communications.

Jobs for shorter range aircraft would be to set up air superiority over the battlefield, and then to intervene in land or sea operations to the maximum effect.

If an invasion of France were decided on, there can be no doubt that we could establish a measure of air superiority from Dunkirk to Dieppe, extending some miles inland, and that we could give reasonable air cover for a shuttle service of coastal shipping. In any other locality, adequate air support could not be guaranteed.

Would such an invasion be of more use to Russia this year than our present policy ? We know that an invasion would not divert westward many more enemy aircraft. Germany is known to have between 30 and 40 divisions in the west, and she obviously reckons that, even without overwhelming air support, these would be sufficient to deal with such forces as we could put ashore. The advantages of postponing invasion till our air and ground strength is higher still appear to outweigh the advantages in invasion now. Added to that we are sending great numbers of aircraft to Russia for use on their front. Those supplies would have to be stopped if we diverted shipping to carry an invading force.

A second front in the air is probably the most important and useful contribution we can make in the west this year. By diverting and causing losses to a large proportion of the *Luftwaffe*, it is giving Russia a chance of setting up air superiority in the east. By smashing industry, it is materially weakening the war effort and morale.

AIR RAIDS AND JAPAN'S WAR EFFORT.

by

John MacDonald

Much has been written and much more said about the great damage that can be done to Japan by bombing attacks. It is true that the houses, as is generally known, are made of wood; wood, moreover that is very dry and inflamable. They are built very close together, so that a fire in one house would quickly spread and endanger a large portion of a town. The protection that is forthcoming is of the most primitive type. There is a serious lack of water, and the principal means of carrying what water supplies there are, is buckets.

In spite of these difficulties, the Japanese have made as much preparation for fighting fires as they can. Regular fire drills are held, and practice for first aid and all the other A. R. P. duties is a common feature. To witness one of these fire drills is amusing, because of the crudeness of the equipment, and the noise and shouting that accompanies the manoeuvres. **All this is very amusing to the onlooker, but it represents a real fear in the hearts of the Japs. They have reason to fear ; much more than their homes and businesses are threatened, the very core of the production of the whole country, and the means of transporting that production, are seriously threatened.**

COASTAL RAIL LINE.

The main line of railway transport in Japan winds itself around the coast from Nagasaki in the south to Tokyo, and points north. **This main line is very vulnerable to attack from the air.** The many tunnels and bridges over the

single track could be demolished easily. One hit on the Tanna tunnel—about 50 miles from Tokyo—would disrupt service on the line for a considerable period. This tunnel is one of the longest in the world, and took four years to build. Any hit it received from a large bomb would open up the seams where there are many boiling hot springs. Once these were started the whole structure would be in danger of collapse. When this tunnel was being constructed thousands of workmen lost their lives in the endeavour to plug the boiling mud and water.

INDUSTRIES NEAR COAST.

Japan's main indurstries are near to the coast. From Kobe and Osaka, all along the main railway line into Tokyo, the largest factories and industrial plants are located within ten miles or so of the coast. These vital spots in Japan's armour would be the first that any invading air armada would see, and consequently the first places to be bombed.

At Kobe, one of the largest shipbuilding cities in Japan, are located the huge Kawasaki dockyards and the Misubishi munition plants. The whole area of these manufactures is in a strip of land about a mile and a half in width and commencing at the sea front. Behind the town, but within a "stone's throw" of the coast, is a range of mountains about 1,000 feet high. All the vital industries are in this narrow strip. The mountains continue to the east until they fall away behind Osaka. Slightly to the north-east of Osaka are the towns of Nagoya and Kyoto, both lying in a valley between two mountain ranges. **They too are vulnerable from the sea.**

LARGEST NAVAL BASE.

Further east there are three towns that are extremely valuable to the Japanese for their production of necessary war materials. **These towns—Yokosuka, Yokohama and Tokyo itself—are again close to the sea.** Yokosuka is the largest naval base in Japan. It is here that one of the huge new 42,000-tonner battleships is being built. Yokohama, the largest and most important harbour in Japan, is also one of the principal centres of aeroplane motor production. The district along the coast between Yokohama and Tokyo is lined with munition-plants.

The famous naval bases of Sasebo, near Nagasaki in the south, and Kuro on the west coast, are building naval vessels to the limit of their capacity. Another important base where submarines are built is Uno in the inland sea, on the mainland south-west of Kobe. This shipbuilding port is tucked away among many islands, and is little known to the world. It nevertheless supplies Japan with most of her undersea craft.

Each of these places is important to Japan's war effort, which would be seriously affected by air bombing.

U-BOATS THAT ARE NOT THERE.

by

H. C. Ferraby. (From London by Special Cable).

In his Reichstag speech Hitler claimed that "U-boat numbers to-day left the highest figure of U-boats in the World War far behind". A number of U-boats were delivered for service in the 51 months of the first war. This number was either 344 or 345 : British and German tabulations disagree by one boat only. Expert shipbuilders outside Germany are generally in agreement that the best average monthly delivery that is probable in the present war is nine boats. On that basis 30 months would have seen the addition of some 270 boats to the U-boats flotillas, and that is a figure which is far from outstripping the total of deliveries in the 50 months of the last war.

CREWS NOT FULLY TRAINED.

It is known from German official histories that it was only with the greatest difficulty that the submarine school in the last war put 18,000 officers and men through hasty courses of instruction, and that even so ten or a dozen of a crew in every new U-boat that went to sea were without any special instruction, and had painfully to learn the elements of their job after the boat was in commission. No one ever suggested that the organisation both for training and for construction of the old German navy was inefficient between 1914 and 1918.

That being so, it is difficult to believe that Nazi organisation could in little over half as many months provide one and a half times the number of men that were found for the Kaiser's U-boats. Hitler's claim in his Reichstag speech simply does not make sense. Tested against known facts about submarine organisation, it is seen to be no more than a rhetorical exaggeration. It may hearten a few Germans, but it will not deceive the outside world.

HITLER'S RUSE.

Some people may be inclined to argue that German output must be more than that, because there have been public references in British Admiralty bulletins to boats bearing numbers in four hundreds and five hundreds. There is, I think, a very easy answer to that argument. There has never been any public mention either by German or British authorities of boats bearing numbers in two hundreds or three hundreds. **What could be a more simple means of misleading the world than to have jumped up the numbering of boats after the autumn of 1939 straight from hundreds to four hundreds ?**

This is a perfectly legitimate ruse. Hitler no doubt trusted to it to assist him in conveying an impression of enormous strength in his claim about

far outstripping the achievements of the Kaiser's navy. But it was a little inept of the German Admiralty not to have allowed some earlier public mention of quite non-existent boats among two hundreds and three hundreds. That would indeed have helped to befog the situation.

GERMANY LOSING PRODUCTION BATTLE.

(*From **Washington** by Special Cable.*)

Germany is losing the greatest of all war battles—that of Production—says the weekly publication, *United States News*. The paper states that reports reveal that Hitler's "New Order" in Europe is not working. The vast industrial machine that equips and empowers the German military forces is beginning to crack.

Sabotage is hampering the production aid that subjugated Europe has been supplying to the Germans. Hitler is reported to be purging or putting in jail the heads of armament industries that are not producing their scheduled quotas. **This does not mean that Germany is verging on industrial collapse, but it does mean that Hitler is losing his liberty of military action.**

MAN-POWER SHORTAGE.

The periodical further declares that man-power shortage is the gravest threat to the Nazis' spring offensive plans. Exhausting their own human resources, Hitler's agents are combing the dominated countries for boys, old men and women, and young girls. Germany's industrial army as well as her fighting forces are feeling great strain. A minimum of 24,000,000 persons are reported working. Ten million are under arms.

The Russian army successes have made it impossible for the Nazis to carry out their usual winter practice of recalling two or three million soldiers home to rest and to replenish the Nazis' home labour supply. Two hundred German divisions, totalling almost 3,500,000 men, remained on the eastern front. **One million men, comprising the flower of the Nazi army, have been killed. The wounded and missing added to this number run the total figure for casualties above 2,500,000.**

Regarding the recruiting from the occupied countries, the paper says the Balkans are being pressed hardest for fighting men and are contributing heavily. In France recruiting for Russian service produced only 5,000 men. Spain is contributing a special division for the Russian front. The Nazi demands are unending.

MEDICINES NEEDED.

On the surface, the German situation regarding the most strategic materials does not appear acute. However, the Germans need certain drugs and medicines badly. Their synthetic rubber stocks are thinning. One of their two rubber plants has been bombed. They need cotton, wool, vegetable and animal fats, copper, tungsten, nickel, and chromite. The Russian scorched earth policy left nothing comparable to the trainloads of loot taken out of France, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The real danger spots in Germany's 1942 outlook are the shortages in machine oil and electric energy. At the present time German oil production is just about balancing her consumption, Grave breakdowns, aggravated by a shortage of lubricants, are occurring in her transportation system. The Germans took 250,000 freight cars and 2,500 locomotives from France soon after that country fell, and more have been taken since.

The total effect of these many strains is cumulative. Each plays upon the other. Germany is bending every nerve to marshal men and machines for winning the war this year. "This crack now appearing in the war machine," observes the paper, "may make her fail."

JAPANESE POLICY IN OCCUPIED AREAS.

by

W. A. Sinclair in the "Listener"

These days one learns much if one knows Japanese and can listen-in to Japanese home broadcasts. From the picture given it is quite clear that the Japanese are now engaged in coldbloodedly and systematically exploiting their conquests. The actions of the Japanese in occuppied Asia are the same, even to details, as the actions of the Germans in occupied Europe. The propaganda they send out is the same also. The technique is very simple. **It is the Hitler technique of a promise that will never be kept.** The Japanese, like the Germans, are saying that their coming will be to the advantage of the conquered peoples, and that a new era of "co-prosperity", happiness and freedom will dawn for all.

JAPANESE HOPE.

The Japanese know, of course, that with the passage of time even the most ignorant and uneducated of their victims will come to see that the Japanese are calmly planning to exploit him and all his property entirely for their own ends, but by that time—so the Japanese hope—it will be too late. Arrangements for further exploitation and results of the exploitation already

achieved are stated by the Japanese with a definite note of jubilation, just as the Germans speak among themselves of the exploitation of occupied Europe.

This exploitation in all its stages was planned many years ago. When the Dutch police went through the papers of the Japanese Consul in Menado, in North Celebes, they found in his possession complete plans for the administration of the Dutch East Indies. This exploitation applies to the financial structure. The same applies to raw material supplies. Japanese factories are being set up wherever possible in the occupied territories. The Japanese agency has been speaking with glee of the "mushroom growth of Japanese factories in the Bangkok suburbs where Japanese machinery has been installed to run out all kinds of goods from hemp to rubber products".

SPREADING JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

But this exploitation is not merely material. The Japanese appear to be attempting to create a vast Japanese empire by suppressing all other racial and cultural individualities within the conquered areas. The Japanese Government is trying to construct a simplified form of its language, with only 300 simple Japanese characters and 300 common idioms, to form a sufficient minimum for practical purposes. This plan of spreading knowledge of the Japanese language is being very vigorously pursued, and the Japanese broadcasts make frequent references to the alleged success of it. It has for instance been announced in Bangkok, to take one example, that the Japanese language school has four times as many students this year as the last.

This is only a broad draft of the picture. **But even so it shows that slavery awaits the East in the Japanese policy and intentions, just as it awaits the West in the policy and intentions of Hitler.**

THE STRONG SIDES OF DEMOCRACIES.

From the "TAN" Istanbul of 6—2—42.

by

Zekeriya Seitel

Ever since the beginning of hostilities, the democracies have shown themselves to be weak everywhere. After 2½ years of war, they are still on the defensive.

To-day again, in Libya they have not been able to maintain their offensive. In the Far East they have lost nearly all their naval bases and aerodromes, and yet in spite of all that, they declare themselves certain of victory. What is it then that inspires this confidence? On what are they building their belief in winning the war?

Here, under six headings, are the trump cards on which the confidence of the democracies depends :—

1. Up till now no power which possesses the mastery of the sea has been defeated in any war ; the countries which have not the control of the oceans have never been victorious. Thanks to their control of the seas, the democracies deprive Germany of all over-seas resources. On the other hand, they are able to take advantage of the resources of 3/4 of the world. If in the Pacific they have been temporarily deprived of their ascendency, they will be able to regain it after a short time.

2. The German industrial war area is threatened by the bombers of the Royal Air Force, but those of America and the Dominions find themselves sheltered from aerial attacks by the enemy. Further, the power of production of the democracies is far superior to that of Germany.

3. In war industries, Germany has reached her maximum output, whereas her opponents have just begun their production. The advantage acquired by Germany at the commencement of the war will disappear day by day. If the war becomes a war of attrition and endurance, Germany will not be able to hold out for long before the colossal power of the Anglo-Saxons.

4. To be victorious in this war, Germany should already have brought it to an end. But neither in the Battle of the Atlantic nor in the Eastern campaign has she been able to obtain a decision, and she now sees herself compelled to carry on a war of attrition. Now that America is able to bring her tanks, aeroplanes, material and armies to Europe, Germany must fear an attack against the continent not only from the air but also on land.

Even if she is victorious in the East, this would not prevent her from losing the war.

5. The intense bombardments which will commence over Germany will end by destroying the morale of her people, not to mention that her industries, her factories and her shipyards will be constantly pounded

6. Finally, there is a moral effect which it is necessary to take into account. All European nations bent to Germanic yoke are so many enemies continually on the look-out. They are ready to take up arms to regain their lost liberty, and when the Allies begin to land on the continent all these nations will revolt. The existing condition of Europe is a weak spot for Germany and a source of strength for the democracies. Thus, the latter built their hopes on a long war. They are convinced that with time the fortunes of war will turn in their favour. That is why they do not attach undue importance to the reverses they have suffered on such and such a front, and they bear all these blows phlegmatically.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

LECTURE XCVII—(*Batch 4*).

1942—

May	...30, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Sunday ...	Nirpalani	...	6.00 p. m.
		Avoor	...	6.30 p. m.
June	... 1, Monday ...	Karaiyur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Idaiyattur	...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Tuesday ...	Andakkulam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Killanur	...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Wednesday.	Kiranur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Nanjur	...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Thursday ...	Vadavalam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Sammattividuthi	...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Friday ...	Nartamalai	...	6.00 p. m.
		Uppiliyakkudi	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XCVIII—(*Batch 5*).

6, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m
7, Sunday ...	Tiruvarangulam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Vamban	...	6.30 p. m.
8, Monday ...	Malaikkudippatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Tulaiyanur	...	6.30 p. m.
9, Tuesday ...	Kulavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilaiyur (South)	...	6.30 p. m.
10, Wednesday.	Vellanur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Sembattur	...	6.30 p. m.
11, Thursday ...	Puliyur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kannangudi	...	6.30 p. m.
12, Friday ...	Pallivasal	...	6.00 p. m.
	Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—30-5-42.